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DR. T. C. LAU

FOR STREET WEAR, LOI WOMEN OF HAINAN LOOP BRASS EARRINGS OVER THEIR HEADS AS HATS

They let the five-pound mass dangle with its full weight on the misshapen ear lobe only during such festive occasions as weddings. Loi men wind their hair into a big forehead knot (Bulletin No. 1).

Bulletin No. 1, February 20, 1950

Hainan Island Now Chinese Communist Goal

HAINAN Island, where embattled nationalist troops are dug in against the threat of invasion by mainland communist forces, is a prize worth having. Its high-grade iron ore holds a key to the eventual industrialization of southeast Asia.

Descriptively named, Hainan means "south of the sea." Chinese often refer to it as the tail of the dragon, since it seems more remote to them than even Tibet. Belonging to China for 2,000 years, it fell to the resourceful Japanese waging World War II in the Pacific.

Twice the Size of New Jersey

Japanese conquerors brought in mine machinery, expanded transport and docking facilities, and made the rugged hills of the strategic island off China's southern coast outproduce the long established Manchurian iron mines. They built airports at several points and a sheltered submarine base at Samah, near the southern tip. Since VJ Day, however, iron-ore traffic has ceased. Japanese-developed canning, cement, textile, and other industries have been allowed to run down.

Hainan is nearly twice the size of New Jersey. It lies in the tropical latitude of Haiti and Puerto Rico. About 180 miles long by 110 miles at its widest, it is roughly egg-shaped. Its small end points toward the other major nationalist stronghold of Formosa, slightly larger island 625 miles northeast along the South China Sea coast.

Hainan's 2,500,000 inhabitants are largely Chinese living along the coasts and in the low northern third of the island. Hoihow, seaport on Hainan Strait, and Kiungshan, governing center close by and inland, are the chief cities. The shallow strait, separating Hainan from Luichow Peninsula to the north, is 15 miles wide and 55 miles long.

Hainan's coast and lowland Chinese live by fishing and farming. Their crops are rice, sugar cane, tobacco, coconuts, betel nuts, and melons. Fishermen sail off on three-month voyages, combing shoals far from home to obtain sea slugs, turtles, and sharkfins.

Home of Big Knot Lois

From scattered hills on the northern plain, the land rises to mountains in the center and southwest. Tallest is one of the Five Finger Mountains, 6,300 feet high.

Most numerous of the mountain dwellers are the several Loi tribes which total about 500,000 people. Migrants of long ago from northern China, they farm with primitive tools, wear long hair in big topknots, and often live in caves. Loi women wear geometric tattoo patterns from head to foot, and stretch their pierced ear lobes to great length by wearing many large circlets of brass (illustration, cover).

Choosing Hainan's highest valleys as home, Miao tribesmen are shy and fewer in number. They came from south China many centuries ago,

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HANNS TSCHIRA FROM EUROPEAN

CARACAS, VENEZUELA, IS PROUD OF ITS UNIVERSITY, OLDER THAN ANY IN THE UNITED STATES

Its cathedral architecture makes a distinct landmark in the capital of the South American country. West of the city of 270,000, a highly developed area stretches across the Andes ranges through Valencia and Barquisimeto to Maracaibo's oil. The government hopes that European DP's, now arriving and starting to farm, will help bring other areas into production (Bulletin No. 2).

Venezuela May Prove Land of Hope for DP's

THE United States of Venezuela is stepping forth as the Western Hemisphere's newest land of opportunity and welcome for Europe's displaced and crowded peoples.

This South American nation—at once handicapped and blessed by contrasts in geography—is perhaps the only country in the world with a surplus of American dollars and practically no national debt. In addition, it has tremendous undeveloped natural resources.

Immigrants Offered Land and Loans

With a scant four and a half million people to occupy a country bigger than Texas and Louisiana, Venezuela needs an enlarged and well-balanced population to exploit the land's riches and tame an undeveloped hinterland (illustration, next page). That explains why the government recently threw open the immigration doors to 2,000 Europeans monthly.

And, in effect, the country laid down the red carpet, too. Not only are immigrants urged to come to Venezuela but the government is offering them grants of rich, well-watered farmland, plus long-term, low-interest loans for machinery and equipment.

The prospect of a better world for Venezuelans and migrating Europeans opened up with the discovery during World War I of huge oil deposits beneath Lake Maracaibo, a gulf of the Caribbean in the northwest corner of the nation, and—more recently—in a similar northeast section on the Orinoco Delta.

The Orinoco River system, sprawled across the center of the country, is largely navigable and more than adequate for irrigation purposes. The Orinoco's tributary rivers also have an enormous potential for water-power projects.

Farmers Are Greatest Need

With adequate electric power, Venezuela could see a way clear for development of the densely forested and mineral-rich Guiana highlands, comprising half of the nation. South of the Orinoco, the state of Bolivar and Amazonas Territory are largely unexplored, but they are known to contain virgin timberlands of great value, and promising strikes have been made in iron ore, gold, and diamonds.

However, despite undeveloped power, mineral wealth, and forest resources, Venezuela's greatest need for immigrants lies in the field of farming and food production. During World War II, strategic oil siphoned off farmers and their helpers alike for work in the "black gold" fields. Productive farms lay idle.

Dollar-rich Venezuela soon found itself in the almost unprecedented position of importing nearly all its food. Seventy per cent of the Venezuelans live on the Andes cordillera in the north and northwest. However, between the mountains and the Orinoco River are the fertile *llanos*, or grassy plains, and the uplands south of the capital city of Caracas (illustration, inside cover).

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and are possibly the island's earliest inhabitants (illustration, below).

Hainan, pleasant through the winter months, has a summer climate made oppressive by calm rather than by extreme heat. Rubber and quinine are possible future commercial crops. In addition to abundant iron ore, the ground contains considerable copper, some gold, silver, tin, lead, and zinc. Coal for steel blast-furnace use is available as near by as Hanoi, French Indochina.

NOTE: Hainan is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of China. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information about Hainan and the neighboring Chinese mainland, see "Today on the China Coast," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1945*; "Among the Big Knot Lois of Hainan," September, 1938*; and "Landscaped Kwangsi, China's Province of Pictoral Art," December 1937. *(Issues marked by an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

LEONARD CLARK

LIKE A SECTION OF PIPE ORGAN IS THIS HAINAN WATER-CARRYING DEVICE

Hollow bamboo lengths make natural containers. Their light weight is appreciated by Miao girls whose job it is to carry water from the nearest river to the village. Miaos clear jungle patches, farm them until the fertility is gone, then move on to fresh spots.

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Bulletin No. 3, February 20, 1950

Shetland Up-Helly-Aa Marks Viking Heritage

VIKING torches recently flamed again in the streets of the little seafaring town of Lerwick, capital of the farthest-north unit of the British Isles, the Shetlands. But the flares—terrifying to the islanders in the days of the Viking raids—no longer mean destruction. They are in observance of the community's annual festival known as Up-Helly-Aa.

Lerwick's traditional celebration, held on an evening near the end of January—this year on the 29th—calls for a torchlight procession, followed by the ceremonial burning of a model Viking ship. This festival is climaxed by a night-long round of gay parties.

Wicked Elves Banished

The origin of this long-observed custom, as well as the exact meaning of its name, is vague in the minds of even the islanders themselves. Some authorities believe the festival is an outgrowth of the lusty feasts and frolics by which the old Norsemen hailed the sun's return after their long, dark winter. Another explanation holds that it grew out of the widespread medieval practice of exorcising witches and demons on a special ceremonial day of each year.

According to the second legend, early observances of Up-Helly-Aa in the Shetlands were set for the 24th day after Christmas. At that time, certain mischievous elves called trolls, or trows, who had previously been given permission to leave their underground haunts for the Yule holiday, were again banished.

The islanders rid themselves of their unwelcome invisible visitors by going about quoting the Bible and brandishing objects of iron. The elves were said to be mortally afraid of that mineral. Until less than a century ago, an old boat or a barrel filled with burning tar was dragged through the streets to celebrate Up-Helly-Aa.

The modern Shetland festival has been designed to fit Norse tradition. It is in line with the Shetlanders' revived interest in the life and customs of their Scandinavian ancestors. The theme of the pageant now follows ancient burial rites of Viking chiefs.

Ship-burning Climaxes Pageant

Several hundred men in masquerade costumes take part in the torchlight procession. Their leader is elected annually and is called the Jarl. He wears traditional Viking battle dress, complete with coat-of-mail, battle-ax, and shield.

Together with his henchmen, the Jarl takes his position in a carefully made copy of a 30-foot Viking war galley, decorated with dragons. This long ship, mounted on wheels, is pulled through the streets at the head of the procession. At the climax of the pageant the ship is run off its carriage into the harbor. The paraders throw their torches into it as it takes to the water, setting a huge bonfire that recalls the funeral pyres of the Vikings.

Parades similar to that at Lerwick take place in the smaller villages on

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There, on the llanos and uplands, lies Venezuela's potential food bowl. There, so runs the hope, southern European farmers accustomed to warm climes may eventually grow the food and raise the cattle so necessary for the balanced economic development of the nation.

NOTE: Venezuela is shown on the Society's map of South America.

For additional information about Venezuela, see "Jungle Journey to the World's Highest Waterfall," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1949; "Caracas, Cradle of the Liberator," April, 1940; and "I Kept House in a Jungle," January, 1939.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 3, 1949, "Venezuela's New Rulers Control Rich Nation"; "Spirit of Gran Colombia Lives Again," October 25, 1948; and "Venezuela, Farming Nation That Struck Oil, Changes Governments," November 12, 1945.

WILLIAM SUMMERS

QUIRIQUIRE, HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE JUNGLE, TYPIFIES VENEZUELA'S INTERIOR

The villagers constantly battle to keep back the jungle from their small fields. Except for beans, which thrive in variety, they grow inferior fruits and vegetables. The jungle provides heart of palm, papayas, mangoes, and plantains (oversized bananas).

TEACHERS! Do you leaf aimlessly through your *National Geographic Magazines*, looking for that article on Greece, those color pictures of Guatemalan costumes? Save time. Order the new Cumulative Index, 1899-1947 inclusive. Price $2.50 anywhere. 1947-48 Supplement, 25¢ in U.S. and Poss.; elsewhere 50¢.

Bulletin No. 4, February 20, 1950

Furs for Coats Come from Ends of Earth

THOUGH the apparel industry is already advertising spring clothing, a look down Main Street shows that it still is button-up-your-overcoat weather. A further look reveals that Miss and Mrs. America are partial to fur coats. Whether they wear mink (illustration, next page) or muskrat, sable or mouton beaver, platinum fox or *chat domestique*, the fur of their coats is big business. It turns over about half a billion retail dollars annually.

Fur dealers tap resources in 48 states, on all the continents, on countless islands, and even in the waters of many parts of the globe. To raw pelt markets in New York, St. Louis, Seattle, St. Paul, Milwaukee, and other cities come furs of every description.

From Trap and Farm to Warehouse

Animals, home-grown and ranch-raised as well as swamp- and forest-trapped, give the fur off their backs in woman's fight against goose-pimples. Muskrat pelts pour in from Louisiana, Chesapeake Bay, and other marsh regions. Sealskins come from Alaska, beaver and wild mink from Canada and the Northwest, and kidskin from China. Transplanted Persian lamb arrives from South-West Africa.

From trappers and fur farmers, the pelts move to collectors, who clean and sort them for size, color, and quality. They then reach big city warehouses, where they are further sorted and bundled to suit the needs of dealers, manufacturers, or auction showrooms.

Most of the skins eventually reach New York City, where, in a few blocks along and near Seventh Avenue from 26th Street to 31st Street, 90 per cent of all the new fur coats for the United States are manufactured. More than 3,000 firms make up this Manhattan "Fur City."

In New York, an army of dressers and dyers enters the picture. They dye in stripes, to produce "mink-blended" or "sable-blended" muskrat, as well as other fashionable blends. They make curly-wooled sheepskin resemble beaver or nutria, and put spots on rabbit fur to give it an authentic leopard look. They make costly furs more costly by slicing and stitching to enhance their beauty and grace.

Hunt for Fur Shaped American History

The cave dweller of antiquity became the first fur-coat manufacturer when he crudely cured his catch and wore the pelt. Down through the ages furs have often been the prize of battle, the badge of royalty, and even the standard of currency.

It was to supply a fashion-hungry European trade with beavers for hats and stoles that traders and trappers pushed their way along the Great Lakes and the Mississippi even ahead of official explorers and missionaries. The beaver virtually founded the Hudson's Bay Company and the fabulous Astor fur fortune. Traders encamped on Chicago's site took their furs north to Astor's fur post on Mackinac Island.

Indians trapped many of the first skins that went to Europe. Right down to World War I, almost all American furs went abroad for dyeing

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other islands of the group. Each has its Jarl and its Viking ship, though on a less elaborate scale.

The Norse-Shetland link which Up-Helly-Aa symbolizes is an ancient one. Scholars have found evidence that Norwegians occupied parts of the islands as early as 700 A.D. The Shetlands became a Viking colony about 875, when Harald the Fairhaired, having forcibly unified Norway, crossed the North Sea to conquer the land to which defeated Norse chieftains had fled, and from which they continued to harry him.

Since 1468, the Shetlanders have been under the rule of Scotland, 100 miles to the south. They are politically a county of Scotland. Today on their lonely, rugged isles, they lead a frugal, hardworking life. To fishing, sheep herding, and a little farming (illustration, below), the islanders have added a substantial knitting industry, turning out hosiery, sweaters, and other woolen goods prized in world markets.

The Shetlanders speak a dialect which combines with English traces of the ancient Norse tongue, Anglo Saxon, and a touch of German. The phrase Up-Helly-Aa is probably far removed from the original festival name.

NOTE: The Shetland Islands are shown on the Society's map of The British Isles.

For additional information, see "Orkneys and Shetlands—A Mysterious Group of Islands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1921.

BERND LOHSE FROM THREE LIONS

STONE FASHIONS FARM BUILDINGS IN THE TREELESS SHETLAND ISLANDS

Grouped along shore are compact stone cottages of the crofters, as the farmers who till the crofts (small patches of farmland) are called. Less than four per cent of the land is tillable. In addition to the chief crops—oats, barley, turnips, and potatoes—the islanders produce several commodities that have made the name Shetland world famous. The pony is perhaps the best known. A miniature collie, the Shetland sheep dog, also traces its ancestry back to these bleak North Sea isles. Shetland shawls, knitted of the fine, loosely woven yarn from local sheep, warm shoulders in lands far removed from the islands of their origin. Four dark mounds by the road are peat. As there are practically no trees on the windswept islands, this partly carbonized turf is dug and used for fuel.

Punjab Still Readjusting to Partition

THE Punjab, a northwestern province of old India now partitioned between the Republic of India and the Dominion of Pakistan, still is readjusting to its dual role. The India portion, cut off from Lahore, the old provincial capital, is building a new city to serve as its capital.

The Pakistan portion, known since the partition as West Punjab, now by law is simply "The Punjab." India's parliament soon will act on a similar bill to call their part "The Punjab" also.

Farmers Live in Villages

The entire Punjab is about the size of Wyoming. It stretches from Tibet west almost to Afghanistan and from the Kashmir highlands south to the Rajputana deserts. Like Wyoming are the Punjab's vast plains tilting up to high mountains. Great rivers and teeming millions of population are differences.

More than half of the Punjab's 29,000,000 people are small farmers. Under the blue skies of their dry, sunny land, they cluster in villages and towns, after a custom developed long ago for protection against raiding tribes from the north.

Wheat is the outstanding crop of the northwest India plains that make up most of the Punjab area. Aided by lifegiving irrigation, the "Land of Five Rivers" also contributes such breadbasket items as rice, millet, corn, and sugar cane, along with cotton and oil seeds. With one-twelfth of the area, the Punjab produced about one-fifth of British India's farm crops.

The mud and wattle huts of the peasants are usually flat-roofed, for rain nearly everywhere in the Punjab is slight and uncertain. Although the climate is often stimulating, the summers are blisteringly hot, the winters freezing.

Before large-scale irrigation works began taming the torrents that rushed down from the Himalayas when the snows melted and the rains came, drought and flood were twin scourges.

Big Cities Separated

Rudyard Kipling wrote of "Injia's sunny clime" and the flooding Indus, as well as of life in India's summer capital, Simla, in the Punjab hills, where British officers and their wives escaped the intense heat of the lowlands.

The Punjab's biggest city is ancient Lahore, which had more than half a million inhabitants in 1941. Moslem Lahore comes within the western two-thirds of the province which voted to join the Mohammedan state of Pakistan. The dividing line runs a little to the east of Lahore, leaving nearby Amritsar, second city of the province, within the Hindu portion.

Amritsar is noted as the holy city of the Sikhs (illustration, next page). After the Moslems and the Hindus, the Sikhs form the third most important element of the Punjab. Despite the religious differences which led

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and dressing or to be sold in London markets or at the Leipzig fur fairs.

With shipping curtailed by that war, dyers and dressers were brought to America. Furs from Russia, China, Japan, Australia, and Canada, as well as domestic, were processed in the United States. But when the war ended, London regained its fur position.

The scene shifted again when World War II broke. New York and St. Louis became the fur-auction leaders, with Milwaukee in an important role because of Wisconsin's expanding fur farms.

Fur farms in the United States date back 83 years. Their rapid recent growth stems from the popularity of fur wraps. When nature couldn't fill the traps fast enough, large-scale fur farming began. Chinchilla, mink, and fox mutations are the royalty of the fur-farming industry.

NOTE: For additional information, see "The Romance of American Furs," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1948; "Men, Moose, and Mink of the Northwest Angle," August, 1947; "The Sealing Saga of Newfoundland," July, 1929; and "Northern Crusoe's Island: Life on a Fox Farm Off the Coast of Alaska," September, 1923.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 31, 1947, "Pribilof Seals Have Repaid Cost of Alaska."

J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

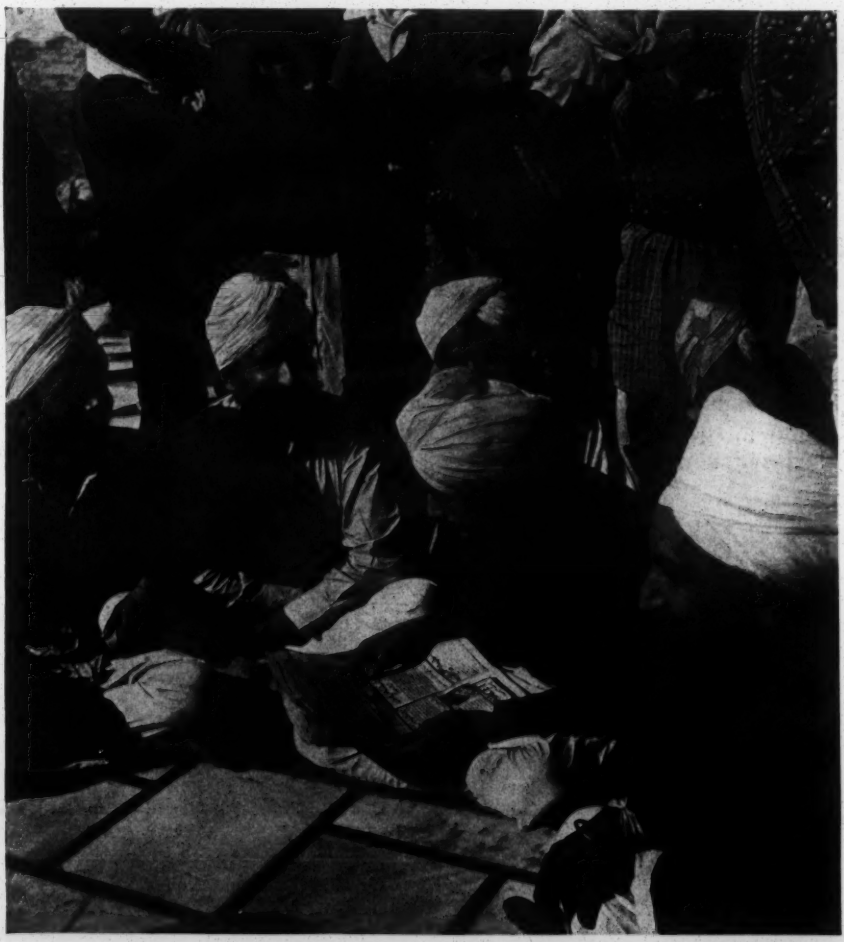
A MINNESOTA FUR FARMER DISPLAYS HIGH-PRICED MINK ON THE HOOF: LEFT, A ROYAL KOHINOOR; THE OTHER, A SILVER BLUE OR PLATINUM MINK

them to disavow the strict Hindu caste system, they are closer to the Hindu group than to the Mohammedans.

Among the Punjab's famous fighting men, whose ancestors fought the British and were immortalized in Kipling's border tales, are the tall bearded Sikhs. In turban and khaki, many of them served as volunteers on the far-flung fronts of World War II. The Punjab contributed half the men in the Indian Army during World War II.

NOTE: The Punjab is shown on the Society's map of India and Burma.

For additional information, see "India—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1943*.



MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

SIKHS, LIKE HINDUS, LEAD REGULATED LIVES; THEY MUST NEVER BE WITHOUT THE "FIVE K'S"

"K" is the first letter of words which stand for the Sikh's symbolic uncut hair, comb, iron bracelet, dagger, and white underclothing. Here at Amritsar, the Sikh center which ranks as the ninth city in the Indian Peninsula, several adherents smile over the news as they sit cross-legged near their temple. Sikhs are noted as soldiers and policemen through the East. They comprised 13 per cent of the population of the old Punjab. In the partition between India and Pakistan, the Sikh region went to the former.